The Southern PATRIOT

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Alabama Voters Rout Racists; Smears Fail

The U.S. Senate, with its power to filibuster to death any progressive racial legislation, is one of the few bastions left intact for Southern bigots. Hence, the racial attitudes of candidates for the Southern seats is subject to sharp inspection by the Bourbons, and an aspirant with even moderate views is assailed with unscrupulous zeal. Pepper of Florida and Graham of North Carolina are two illustrious victims who attest to the strength of the zealots and their malodorous tactics.

But in the Alabama Democratic primary of May 4 a prime Dixiecrat target weathered the worst and amassed a smashing 80,000-vote majority that might signify a new, healthy trend in Southern politics.

Senator John Sparkman, seeking his second full term in office, was opposed by Congressman Laurie Battle, admitted candidate of the "big mule" industrialists and the Black Belt land barons. A third, and minor candidate in the race, was retired admiral John Crommelin, who would have liked to have had the support of the conservatives.

Between these two foes, Sparkman was given the full treatment on racial matters. Since he had run as vice-presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket in 1952, the party's FEPC plank was held against him. He lacked any support from the state's major newspapers, except for an 11th hour half-hearted endorsement from the Birmingham News. Most editorialists followed the line taken by the Selma **Times-Journal**, which accused him of having "one face toward Harlem and one toward his native state."

There were pictures. Crommelin devoted television and stump time to showing prints of pictures of Sparkman among Negro groups. Battle's side was a little more discreet, but equally assiduous in use of the same material.

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As we go to press on the 17th ("decision day") the Supreme Court has rendered its momentous and welcome ruling outlawing segregation in public schools. Our next issue will discuss this historic decision in detail.

Recipients of awards at the 6th Headliner Week Awards Banquet at the Lincoln University School of Journalism, April 22, hold their citations alongside Lincoln University officials. Left to right: Samuel Welles, mid-west manager for Time magazine; Dr. James A. Dombrowski, editor, Southern Patriot; Dr. Sherman D. Scruggs, president of Lincoln U.; John W. Ruettinger, president. City Club of Chicago; John H. Sengstacke, publisher, The Chicago Defender, banquet toastmaster; Dr. Armistead S. Pride, dean, Lincoln U. School of Journalism, and John H. Johnson, president, Johnson Publishing Co., Inc., Chicago. Sengstacke and Johnson received Citations of Merit for outstanding performance in journalism. Time, Southern Patriot, Chicago Daily News, and the City Club of Chicago received awards for significant contribution to better human relations. Lester Brownlee, staff writer for the Daily News, received the award for his publication but missed the photo.

EASTLAND THROWS IN SPOUNGE

Headline-hunting Senator James Eastland and his hired character assassins have had enough of the South.

At the close of his vain and shameful attempt to smear the SCEF, the Mississippi Dixiecrat apparently did not realize how sharply his 'Red'-hunt had backfired. He announced that he would put on another show in Birmingham, either in May or June.

He has now changed his mind. According to the Montgomery **Advertiser** of May 9 a high source in Washington declares it "highly doubtful" that the promised hearings will take place.

"It was learned Eastland was dissatisfied with popular response to four stormy days of hearings in March during which he tried to pin a bright Red tag on the Southern Conference Educational Fund and its directors," the **Advertiser** said.

"Public reason to be given for the indefinite postponement of the Alabama hearings will be 'the press of Senate business,' it was learned.

"Yet, hearings into alleged communist-front organizations elsewhere are scheduled for the subcommittee in the immediate future . . .

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SCEF Board Gains New Members

The board of directors of the SCEF elected 27 new members at its meeting in Atlanta on May 8, bringing the number on the board to 52.

The SCEF now enjoys the participation and counsel of leading professional people in every Southern state. It is planned to enlist others, in order that the greatest coordination will exist among persons of good will in meeting

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LETTERS

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of May 6, asking me to allow you to place my name in nomination as a member of your Board of Directors, I want to say that after careful consideration, I shall permit you to do so.

I realize the pressure the Southern Conference has been subject to, particularly in recent months on account of the hearings held in New Orleans conducted by Senator Eastland—I am always tempted to say 'misconducted'. I realize the critical condition of the Fund, now awaiting the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the public school cases.

It is my belief and conviction that neither the Southern Conference Educational Fund, its officials, board, and staff, and particularly yourself, its director, are communistic nor communists, and it is of course, on this basis that I am willing to let my name be used.

I am also convinced that the work of the Southern Conference is directed to establishing American rights, particularly for Negro people who live in a democracy and who are entitled to such rights. And it is along these lines that I wish to help to the extent of my humble ability.

I cannot promise to attend many meetings because my time is greatly limited and my duties are extremely heavy, but I shall do the best I can. With good wishes for the success of the Fund's endeavors to extend the rights of human beings to all people, and all Americans, so that they may enjoy the blessings of this great democracy under which we are privileged to live, and with kind personal regards, I am,

Faithfully yours,
JULIAN FEIBELMAN,
Rabbi, Temple Sinai
New Orleans, La.

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To the Editor:

Having been in Asia three years with the Methodist Church, I feel a strong wish to help in your fine work, because the fact of existing race discrimination in the U. S. is a *terribly serious* black mark on Christianity and democracy, American style, in the eyes of Asians. Yet I am only a struggling student of Social work, so can only enclose this $1. More power to you in your important work!

Signed,
MR. LAWRENCE SWIFT
Boston 18, Mass.

Alabama Vote Is Hopeful

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Sparkman devoted a great deal of time to making clear his past and present opposition to FEPC and similar bills. He did not, however, plunge into the muck after his opponents and try to appear more bigoted than the bigots. This restraint was rewarded by the quiet, but solid support of the state's 40,000-odd Negro voters—a group whose defection may well have forced a run-off.

But perhaps the most significant factor in Sparkman's victory was the new electorate which came to the polls for the first time as a result of the easing of the state's poll tax. This was the first election after a constitutional amendment had abolished the retroactive provisions of the poll tax — which could amount to $36—and limited back payments to two dollars. This move brought some 200,000 persons to the registrars for the first time, and it was their voice —in a record turn-out of 500,000—that decided the outcome.

The anti-Dixicrat sentiment was prevalent from top to bottom in the balloting. James E. Folsom defeated six opponents for the governorship with a majority of more than 10,000. No overt attempt was made to wield the racial issue against him, but gutter talk branded him the "Negro candidate." In his previous term in office he had personally intervened to persuade the sheriffs in several counties to let Negroes register to vote.

In races for membership in the state Democratic committee, "regular" candidates defeated Dixiecrat candidates for 50 of 59 posts.

In Mobile, two Negro businessmen won seats on the county Democratic executive committee—the first to do so since Reconstruction days. In Montgomery, E. D. Nixon, AFL Sleeping Car Porters union official and SCEF board member, lost a bid for a similar post by 400 votes. He received 800 ballots in a district where there were only 600 registered Negro voters.

Attorney Arthur D. Shores, first Negro in modern times to seek elective office in Birmingham, polled 4015 votes in his bid for a seat in the state legislature. This placed him only 28th in a field of 29, but his campaign was well received and certainly set a favorable precedent for later bids.

But not the least gratifying result of the Birmingham voting was the sound trouncing of Eugene "Bull" Connor in his race for sheriff of Jefferson County (which includes Birmingham). Connor is nationally notorious for the Klan-like reign of terror he imposed upon Birmingham as its commissioner of police. He retired from that job after becoming involved in a morals case.

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In Opelousas, La., Negro voters participated in a city election for the first time, and played a major role in ousting incumbents who were held responsible for past acts of racist violence and repression. Negroes made up 2,000 of the total electorate of 5,000.

Only four years ago there were no Negroes on the registrar's books in St. Landry Parish, which included Opelousas. With bitter comedy, two Negroes who sought to register for the draft were beaten up because they mistakenly entered the voting office there. One of four men who filed federal suit against the registrar was shot to death by an unsalaried deputy sheriff.

Times have certainly changed.

Birmingham Hearing Cancelled

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"On the list of prospective witnesses for the Alabama hearings . . . were top CIO and AFL officials and some important names in state political circles."

Such a retreat by a congressional committee in this day and time is almost unprecedented, and represents a clear vindication for the SCEF and its supporters. Unfortunately, the possibility still remains that contempt citations may be issued against Aubrey Williams and James A. Dombrowski, SCEF officials, and Mrs. Virginia Durr, a former board member. Furthermore, Miami attorney Leo Sheiner, former board member, is facing disbarment proceedings because he invoked his constitutional rights in refusing to answer questions by the Eastland Committee.

In the effort to forestall contempt proceedings, an open letter of protest has been addressed to Senator William Langer, head of the Senate Judiciary Committee. We are pleased to announce that signers so far number more than 500 including some of the most outstanding liberals in the country.

Unfortunate, too, is that only the Montgomery **Advertiser** and the New Orleans **Item** have carried any word of Eastland's retreat. The press asociations did not transmit the story, which was featured on the **Advertiser's** front page.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I enclose $_____ and apply for a _____

Travelers Health Association of Omaha, Nebraska, to be based upon the statements of facts which I represent to be true and complete, whether written by myself or not, and agree that said statements shall form a part of the contract of insurance. I understand that any statement in this application shall bar the right to recovery if such statement is untrue and was made with the intent to deceive or materially affects either the acceptance of the risk or the hazard assumed by the Association.

I am a white person of good moral character.

1 Name in full

2 Town and State where born. Month day and year

3 Of What Country Are You a Citizen? Are You Married? Ms. Mrs.

4 P. O. Address Where Notices are to be sent. Street City or Town

5 Residence Address Street City or Town

Reactionary Actuary Has Amazing Policy

The Travelers Health Association of Omaha, offering "Health Insurance for Business and Professional Men and Women," advises prospective policy holders: "You don't have to choose your disease, we cover all diseases, except genital."

With diseases, Travelers Health is bold indeed. With people, however, it is taking no chances. Applicants are limited to:

"Any white person over eighteen years of age, of good moral character and in good general health whose occupation at the time of application is classified as a select or preferred risk. . ."

On the application blank, in bold type, the first statement that must be sworn to is: "I am a white person of good moral character."

This sort of thing does not seem wise for a health insurance outfit; it makes anybody with any moral character ill just to read it.

Board

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the problems the impending Supreme Court decision on school segregation may create.

New members of the board are:

L. E. Austin, Publisher, **The Carolina Times**, Durham, N. C.; **Lincoln Barker**, Professor of Psychology & Education, Maryville College, Maryville, Tenn.; **Edwin L. Brock**, Minister, The Methodist Church, Marion, La.; **William A. Calder**, Professor of Astronomy, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Ga.; **Robert A. Childers**, President, Childers Mfg. Co., Houston, Texas.

John M. Coe, Attorney-at-law, Pensacola, Fla.; **Richard Comfort**, Director of Town & Country Work, Missouri Synod, The Presbyterian Church, Jefferson City, Mo.; **Rabbi Maurice Davis**, Temple Adath Israel, Lexington, Ky.; **Rabbi Julian B. Feibelman**, Temple Sinai, New Orleans, La.

The Rt. Rev. S. L. Greene, President, Council of Bishops, AME Church, Atlanta, Ga.; **C. H. Hamlin**, Professor of Social Science, Atlantic Christian College, Wilson, N. C.; **W. E. Hogan**, Assoc. Secy., S.W. Area Council YMCA, Dallas, Tex.; **H. Horne Huggins**, M.D., Baton Rouge, La.; **Forrest E. LaViolette**, Professor of Sociology, Tulane University, New Orleans, La.

Herman H. Long, Director, Race Relations Dept., American Missionary Assoc., Fisk Univ., Nashville, Tenn.; **H. T. Penn**, D. D. S., Roanoke, Va.; **Lewis S. C. Smythe**, Professor of Christian Community, The College of the Bible, Lexington, Ky.; **Donald Stephens**, Arden, Delaware; **Leland H. Taylor**, Professor of Zoology, West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.

O. B. Taylor, M.D., Knoxville, Tenn.; **Franklin W. Thomas**, Executive Secretary, YMCA, Tulsa, Okla.; **Willson Whitman**, Author, Southern Pines, N. C.; **Ulysses G. Wilson**, Pastor, Zion Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Va., Vice-President, Virginia Council of Churches.

Rev. James Armstrong, First Methodist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; **L. C. Bates**, publisher, **State Press**, Little Rock, Ark.; **Jesse P. Guzman**, Director, Dept. of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute, Ala.; **The Rt. Rev. James Claire Taylor**, Bishop, Sixth Episcopal District, The African Methodist Zion Church, Montgomery, Ala.

Churches of All Faiths Back Integration of Schools and Selves

The Southwestern Unitarian Church Conference meeting in New Orleans last month passed a resolution favoring integration of public schools as "the only system consistent with the ideals of our country." The conference embraces 11 churches and 14 fellowships.

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In Dalton, Ga., last month the North Georgia Methodist Women's Society passed a resolution opposing Governor Talmadge's plan to preserve segregation by setting up a "private" school system.

Delegates voting represented nearly 30,000 members.

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Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio ordered segregation ended in all Catholic schools under his jurisdiction last month.

His letter, affecting some 25,000 children in 33 South Texas counties, asserted: "If secular government, military leaders and private organizations can eliminate the sins of segregation and discrimination, we can do so too."

* * *

A workshop on "The Gospel and Social Legislation" held at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville deplored the church's failure to set a good example in racial relations.

Dr. Guy Ranson of the seminary faculty declared, "Legislation in the South denies the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God, and we support those laws. We are of such numerical strength that there is not a law that could not be changed if Baptists supported (the change)."

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In the rural community of Oak Grove, Ark., last month, ten Negro members were accepted as members of a formerly all-white Baptist church.

"The members took the position that if we could not do something like this here, we'd look funny talking about foreign missions," was the simple explanation offered by one of the congregation. The church is reportedly the first affiliate of the state Baptist convention to become interracial.

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Last month the Star Baptist General Board of North Carolina fired Baptist Student Union leaders in three major educational institutions for an assortment of charges—"unbelief," "friction," and violation of "traditions."

However, several outstanding churchmen in the state said the real reason was that the discharged pastors were "too Christ-like on the race issue."

The ousted leaders were Rev. J. C. Herrin, University of North Carolina; Rev. Max Wicker, Duke University, and Rev. James Ray, North Carolina State College.

Senate Committee Passes FEPC Bill

The Senate Labor subcommittee has approved the Federal Equality of Opportunity in Employment bill sponsored by Senator Ives (R.-N.Y.) and others.

The SCEF, represented by its vice-president, John Bolt Culbertson of Greenville, S. C., testified in favor of this measure in March. (See March *Patriot*.)

Although the bill is on the calendar, its passage this session is thought unlikely. The Senate voted down an anti-discrimination amendment to the Taft-Hartley law earlier this month.